

impact the families of veterans. \$14.3 billion in student loan cuts will impact the children of veterans. And those National Guard and Reservists who came home after battling in Iraq to Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana will find that \$7 billion has been cut from the most vulnerable, and their homes that have been destroyed will be impacted by this budget because there will be no money at the end to be able to provide for the restoration of their lives.

This budget reconciliation legislation will not honor our veterans. We honor them tomorrow. Why do we not honor them today? We can do better.

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HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the son of a World War II veteran, as a 31-year veteran of military service and the father of three sons serving today in the military, Veterans Day is particularly meaningful to my family. America exists today only because of the courage of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military. Generations of American soldiers have turned impossible challenges into incredible victories, and they have earned our highest respect.

As troops continue to risk their lives in the war on terrorism, we are especially inspired by the bravery of America's 25 million veterans. By risking their lives to protect our freedoms, there is a greater spread of freedom today worldwide than ever in history. We will forever remain grateful for their service.

I would like to encourage all citizens to take time on Friday to personally express their sincere appreciation to the veterans of their communities.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11 or the terrorist attacks on Jordan.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin our day here by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, the 15th chapter, the seventh verse:

"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God hath giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother."

Remember this today when in the name of deficit reduction, you would vote to cut health care for poor children. Thou shalt not harden thine heart.

Those who would today cut food stamps, school breakfast and school lunch benefits for the poor, thou shalt not harden thine heart.

Those who would cut rental housing benefits for hurricane victims, there is a moral imperative about us being in this House. And we cannot just look at this as business as usual when we choose to just cut benefits for the poor and then turn around and give tax cuts for the rich.

MEDICARE

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 40th anniversary of Medicare. Medicare has come a long way. Initially, it started off as a hospitalization policy. Later we added physician benefits and physician visits and even some tests. Now we have put the third leg of that stool on; and we are going, effective January 1, to add prescription drugs to Medicare, making Medicare now a full health care policy for our seniors.

The reason that Congress did this was because many times the physicians would prescribe prescriptions for our seniors, yet they would have to make a decision between buying food or the prescription. Congress did not think that was a good idea; and so effective January 1, seniors will have a prescription drug option. The sign-up begins next Tuesday, November 15. We encourage seniors to begin to go shopping.

I held a town hall meeting in Abilene, Texas, on Monday at the Rose Park Senior Center and encouraged our seniors to go shopping. One of the things that was so important about this new process was that we allowed seniors the ability to make their own choices and brought competition in it.

I urge our seniors to look very closely at this new great prescription drug benefit that has been provided for them.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOESN'T REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress is about to slash nearly \$50 billion from investments in our children's future, in health care and education. Yet because of Republican priorities, they are going to actually add \$20 billion to the \$3 trillion in our deficit. Only in a Republican Congress.

What kind of Congress passes a budget that cuts \$9.5 billion from children's health care, affecting 6 million children, while overpaying HMOs by \$5.4 billion? What kind of Congress hands out \$16.5 billion to oil and gas companies, while cutting 40,000 children's nutrition programs and seniors from home heating assistance?

What kind of Congress cuts 330,000 children from child care assistance, while giving special tax breaks to bow and arrow manufacturers, NASCAR track owners, and logging companies?

What kind of Congress cuts \$14.5 billion from student college assistance, the largest cut ever, while cutting taxes for millionaires?

A Republican Congress, but of course. Those are the wrong priorities for America. Americans know.

Mr. Speaker, we should cut spending, but we should not do it by throwing our children under the bus. America can do better. It is time for a change.

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we celebrate Veterans Day to honor America's most courageous men and women of the past and the present. In conflicts around the world, those serving in our military protect our country and safeguard the values that Americans hold dear: safety and freedom and democracy.

The Defense Department has a program allowing a recorded phone call so that soldiers from my district serving overseas can listen to it and then contact me. The opinions of those serving our country are so very important, and I encourage all Members of Congress to participate in this program.

Veterans Day is often marked by parades. However, we in Congress must remember that the celebration of our veterans is more than just a once-a-year event. Over the past 5 years, we have increased benefits to veterans by over \$20 billion, from the GI Bill to VA home loan guarantees to benefits for disabled veterans, widows, and dependents.

However, dollars and cents cannot measure the sacrifice of our soldiers. We enjoy our freedoms today because of what they do every day of every year. To those who have served, a grateful Nation says thank you.

REPUBLICANS STIFLE OPEN AND MEANINGFUL DEBATE ON BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, having served in the California State legislature for 24 years, half of which was spent in a leadership role, I know how to engage in a bipartisan process. This budget reconciliation bill is not bipartisan.

Rather than provide the House with an opportunity to engage in a serious and meaningful budget discussion, we are left with this take-it-or-leave-it package that, if passed, will increase our budget deficit nearly \$20 billion.

Rather than accept an offer by the Blue Dogs to discuss our 12-point deficit reduction alternative, we are left